

searches. He also served for 14 years on the Pacifica School District board where he focused on delivering the best possible education and learning environment for the students and teachers. His last vote on the school board was a vote to "surplus" the Oddstad school property so that it could be utilized better in the future. Seven years ago, plans to convert the property into workforce housing began. Mike was already on the city council and he pushed hard to get the plan approved. However, technical delays have been postponing the vote which is now expected in late January or February of 2022. While Mike will miss the vote by just about a month, Pacifica will not forget his leadership on the project. He was also instrumental in the creation of 122 workforce housing units for the Jefferson Union High School District.

Mike was born in San Francisco. He received his AA in Criminology from City College of San Francisco and his BA in Recreation from San Francisco State University. He has worked as a savings and loan branch manager, investment manager, and realtor in addition to his jobs at the Jefferson Union High School District.

Mike and his wife Liz live in Pacifica with their middle daughter Siobhan. Their son Sean and daughter Alana have moved out and are building their own families. In his free time, Mike likes to barbecue and smoke meats, study history and play trivia.

Madam Speaker, I ask the members of the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mike O'Neill for his three decades of public service, ten of them on the city council. While he is leaving the dais, his fingerprints will remain on many Pacifica institutions. We thank him for his contributions and hope that we will still see him as Santa Claus during the annual tree lighting ceremony sharing a jovial ho, ho, ho.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I missed the vote on the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3462 due to a meeting. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 506.

HONORING PATRICIA GIVENS UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in admiration to honor Patricia A. Givens' incredible life of public service and to congratulate her on her retirement. Patricia's remarkable contributions to our hometown of Tampa have had a tremendous impact on our neighbors and citizens of Florida and is worthy of recognition.

Patricia was born in Tampa, Fla., at MacDill Air Force Base, where her father served. She graduated from Jefferson High School and later attended Hillsborough Community Col-

lege and Nova Southeastern University, where she earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration. She serves as the President for the Carver City Lincoln Gardens Civic Homeowners Association Inc. and is an active volunteer with her church, Revealing Truth Ministries.

After her tenure with a private company, Patricia's public service started in 2010 in the district offices of Florida Representative Betty Reed and Florida Representative Ed Narain. She then joined my district team in 2016 as office manager. Patricia has since been the foundation of my office, applying her organizational and administrative skills to ensure efficient operations so constituents are served with the highest level of professionalism, tracking each constituent interaction with attentiveness and accuracy. She is driven by her compassion and taps into her wealth of knowledge for local resources to help each constituent with understanding and kindness, and coordinates assistance right away.

As intern coordinator, Patricia has gone above and beyond to provide a beneficial as well as rewarding experience for interns. Because of this and her supportive nature, she has impacted the lives of students in a major way. Each semester, she has brought on a team of impressive interns who have flourished academically and professionally, returning years later to thank our office for their pivotal internship experience. Additionally, Patricia is credited with facilitating rehabilitation to our district office and ensuring our staff have the necessary resources they require to be successful each day at work.

Patricia has been an integral part of my team. However, I am sure she will continue extending her generosity as wife, mother, grandmother, neighborhood advocate, church member and traveler. Patricia is married to her husband Gary and has three children, and they are blessed with multiple grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Patricia embodies what it is to be a public servant and citizen. She has paved the way for generations to come, always giving her very best, leading by example, and always working to make lives better for those she serves. On behalf of the citizens of Florida and my neighbors across Tampa Bay, I am proud to honor Patricia A. Givens for her formidable efforts and selfless devotion to our community and congratulate on her well-deserved retirement.

REINTRODUCING THE EMERGING BUSINESS ENCOURAGEMENT ACT OF 2022

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Emerging Business Encouragement Act which will give new small businesses a more equal playing field to secure federal contracts.

Emerging businesses face obstacles that are distinctly different from more well-established small businesses. Under the Emerging Business Act, the Small Business Administration would create a new designation for an Emerging Business Enterprises based on the company's age, size and total compensation.

This will encourage meaningful opportunities among like-sized enterprises compared to competition against larger, fully-established enterprises.

Emerging businesses often have trouble securing federal contracts. The Emerging Business Encouragement Act will expand opportunities by requiring federal agencies to set contracting goals for emerging business enterprises equal to or not less than 3 percent of contracts and subcontracts.

Additionally, many emerging businesses have difficulty accessing the capital they need to develop products and hire workers. Under the Emerging Business Encouragement Act, the percentage of federal loan guaranty authority for Small Business Administration loans would increase from 50 percent for all small businesses to 65 percent for emerging business enterprise, providing a significant incentive for lenders to lend to these businesses.

We must support all job creators as our economy continues to recover, but there are significant differences between a startup with only a few employees and an established business with a few hundred employees and decades of experience. This legislation will help these emerging businesses overcome the unique challenges they face in their first few years of operation, and it will ensure these businesses are able to compete for federal contracts and gain access to critical small business loans.

To be certified as an emerging business enterprise, a company must be 10 percent or less the size of the current SBA designation for a small business, which is typically capped at 500 employees. The company must be less than 5 years old at the time of certification with annual compensation of individuals in management positions not exceeding 200 percent of the annual mean wage for "Management Occupations" defined by the U.S. Department of Labor. These standards will ensure that those businesses benefiting from EBE programs are truly emerging.

With this bill, we can help entrepreneurs get through their first few years, when so many businesses fail, so they can grow and create jobs. And it provides incentives for lenders to provide capital to emerging businesses, one of the top concerns for entrepreneurs.

Madam Speaker. I invite my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH CONGRES- SIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AS THE "DISTRICT OF CHAMPIONS"

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate 30 schools in my Congressional District for their display of excellence this past weekend at the University Interscholastic League Texas High School Football State Championships in Arlington.

This past Friday, South Oak Cliff High School, part of the Dallas Independent School District, became the first DISD school to repeat as state champions by winning their thirteenth straight game, defeating Port Neches-Groves High School by a score of 34 to 24 to win the UIL Class SA Division 2 title.

The Golden Bears fell behind early, 17 to 5 but came back to win the game thanks to solid performances by Quarterback William Little, who threw for a season-high 233 yards, and the South Oak Cliff defense, who forced 2 safeties along with a critical interception that was returned for a touchdown to put the game away late in the third quarter. With the victory, head coach Jason Todd made Texas history by becoming the first African American head coach to win 2 state championships with the same school.

The next day, the DeSoto High School Eagles showed the State of Texas why they're a top-ranked offensive program by overpowering the Vandegrift Vipers by a score of 42 to 17 in their UIL Class 6A Division 2 state championship game.

The Eagles racked up more than 600 yards of total offense, including two 100-yard receiving performances by wide receivers Tre Wisner and Johnntay Cook II and a 100-yard rushing performance by running back Deondrae Riden, who found the endzone twice in the third quarter to put the game out of reach.

In the nightcap on Saturday, The Duncanville High School Panthers finally did something they've been trying to do for the past 5 years, defeat North Shore High School and earn Head Coach Reginald Samuel a championship ring.

The game was competitive, with both teams tied at 21 a piece going into halftime, but a critical drive capped off by a 9-yard touchdown run by Caden Durham gave the Panthers the lead in the third quarter. A drive late in the fourth quarter by North Shore was stopped inches short by the Panthers' staunch defense with seconds left on the clock to secure the UIL Class 6A Division 1 title.

Madam Speaker, many members can say that their district is home to some of the top recruiting prospects in high school football, only a few members can say that their district is home to 3 state champions, but no other member in this chamber can proudly say that they have 3 of the top 70 nationally ranked programs in the country within their district lines. I want to congratulate the players, coaches, medical trainers, students, teachers, facility, staff, parents, and alumni of these 3 schools on their historic achievement and on showing the rest of the nation that Texas 30 is genuinely the district of champions.

RECOGNIZING MARGARET "PEG" RZEPSKI

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Margaret "Peg" Rzepki, a Constituent Services Representative in my Philadelphia offices, as she retires after 36 years of service to the House.

A lifelong Philadelphia resident, Peg has dedicated her career to working for the people of Philadelphia. Beginning her service in the office of former Congressman Thomas Foglietta, Peg later worked for former Congressman Robert "Bob" Borski and former Congressman Robert Brady. Since January of

2019, Peg has faithfully served as a member of my staff, working tirelessly for the residents of the City of Philadelphia. Beyond her service to the House, Peg has also served for many years as the leader of Philadelphia's 31st Ward, in addition to her involvement in several community and civic organizations.

Throughout her time serving the House of Representatives, Peg has approached her work serving constituents with unwavering commitment, an outstanding work ethic and a drive to make her neighborhood, city, and country a better place. Over more than 3 decades of service, Peg has personally helped 1000s of constituents, an extraordinary record of service attained by very few who have ever worked for this body.

As Peg concludes her decades of public service at the end of this month, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in thanking Peg for her work, and in wishing her all the best as she embarks on a new chapter in her life.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AL JORDAN CHAPTER 15

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Disabled American Veterans Al Jordan Chapter 15 on the 100th anniversary of its founding.

In 1932, Congress granted a federal charter to Disabled American Veterans (DAV), then the Disabled American Veterans of the World War, establishing it as the official voice of disabled veterans. Since its founding on June 12, 1922, in Stockton, California, the DAV Al Jordan Chapter 15 has cared for and represented countless veterans in San Joaquin County who were rendered disabled during their service.

Today, the DAV Al Jordan Chapter 15 continues its important work by providing assistance to those filing disability claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs and directing veterans to vital resources and services. The DAV Al Jordan Chapter 15 has helped many wounded warriors in our community transition to fulfilling futures upon return to civilian life.

I commend all the members of Disabled American Veterans Al Jordan Chapter 15, past and present, for a century of dedication to those who served our great nation. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring them today.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SHERRIE MEICHER

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize the achievements of Sherrie Meicher, a dedicated champion for the people of Texas—10. After two decades of service as a field representative in my Houston office, Sherrie is entering a well-deserved retirement.

When it comes to field work, Sherrie has done it all: attended every ribbon cutting event, canvased every neighborhood, and made every phone call. No matter how much work she was given, she was always eager to do more. I am confident that her passion, commitment, and hard work made a positive impact on thousands of lives.

Before joining my office, Sherrie was a schoolteacher, where she gained invaluable skills like patience and communication that shone through her work each day. I will forever be grateful for the expertise she shared, the extensive connections she made in the Houston area, and the dedication she exhibited throughout her tenure.

While she will be deeply missed in my office, I have no doubt that Sherrie will enjoy her time with her daughter Elizabeth and will continue to bless her community, and all those with whom she comes in contact, for years to come.

FAREWELL REMARKS TO CONGRESS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it has been a true honor to represent the 30th Congressional district in Washington and serve the great people of Dallas and North Texas as their representative in the U.S. House of Representatives. I have been privileged to work with so many dedicated public servants over the last 30 years to improve the lives of people not only in my district and state, but throughout the world.

I can leave Congress knowing I worked hard every single day to improve the lives of my constituents by improving opportunities for employment, expanding educational access, adding healthcare options for children, seniors, and veterans, and of course bringing their tax dollars back to Texas to invest in a broad range of new and improved infrastructure projects.

Throughout my career I have been privileged to be known as a trailblazer, beginning as the first female African American Chief Psychiatric Nurse at the V.A. Hospital in Dallas, as the first Registered Nurse elected to the Texas House and Senate, first woman in Texas history to chair a major Texas House committee, the Labor Committee and U.S. Congress, and the first African American and female to chair the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

I was honored to be recognized as one of the most effective legislators in Congress, sponsoring and cosponsoring more than 300 bills passed by the House and Senate and signed into law, and my acclaimed initiative, A World of Women for World Peace, has gained national and international recognition. I am also proud of founding the Diversity and Innovation Caucus and Homelessness Caucus and chairing the Lupus Caucus, the Congressional Caucus on Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Congressional Black Caucus.

One of my proudest accomplishments during my time as the Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus was to ensure that all minority voices were heard with one strong,